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HB 6555 Elephant Bill 2009

As a 13 year-old girl, I deal with plenty of drama. Does he like me? Do I look fat in this outfit? But some part of me always knows that all of these problems are minor and silly. After all, what is a school dance compared to being chained up for hours at a time? And how does it compare to being aggressively beaten with a bullhook? Even I, as a teenager, realize that the use of bullhooks and chains on elephants in circuses is a serious issue.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent." This quote is easily applied to the use of bullhooks on elephants. The bullhook is designed to hurt an elephant and puncture the skin. Although the appearance of an elephant's skin looks tough, the sensitivity is actually the same as humans. Furthermore, the evil it does is brutally painful.

Did you know that when elephants are really upset, fluid flows from their temporal glands at the sides of their face, just like when people cry? After many years of research, scientists have discovered that elephants feel the same (if not more) emotions humans do. PBS says, "Joy, anger, grief, compassion, love; the finest emotions reside within these hulking masses." So if these creatures can feel the same kind of emotions humans do, then there is no way being chained up for hours and hit with a sharp metal hook doesn't affect them. Obviously, people and elephants have a lot in common (despite appearance). So the pain a human would feel if they were to be struck with a bullhook is probably around the same an elephant feels.

All in all, I strongly believe that the use of bullhooks and chains in circuses is not only cruel to the elephants but is also wrong and immoral. As I stated earlier, I take in tons of drama at school, but I still recognize a real problem versus a minor one. If a teenager can do it, then an adult should also be able to realize what a barbaric practice the use of these items are and become part of the solution, rather than the problem. Thank you for your time.